Reviewer's report

Title: Serum Immunoglobulin G, M and A Response to Cryptosporidium parvum in Cryptosporidium-HIV Co-infected Patients

Version: 2 Date: 9 June 2009

Reviewer: Jeffrey W Priest

Reviewer's report:

1. PCR analysis is reasonable.
2, 3, and 4. There is no way, without running Western blots, for the authors to know with any confidence that their supposed negative controls truly are negative. For their high positive values (ie, from individuals currently shedding oocysts), this will not make any difference. However, their specificity analysis would certainly be impacted if the cutoff had been set too high. Cutoff values in the 0.7-0.8 OD range are certainly high. Might I suggest that the authors add a two-panel scatter plot of IgG (panel A) and IgA (panel B) OD values where the X-axis contains the various study groups (Group 1, group 2, group 3, etc. and including negative controls) and the Y-axis is OD minus background. The plot should include a designation of the mean for each group. That way, the reader can judge whether the values seem reasonable or not instead of being forced to accept a statistical analysis of antibody prevalence.
5. Onset dates provided as requested.
6. Comparison added.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'